Sir, 50 April the 29th 1725

According to the Order of the last Council of the Royal Society, I herewith send the Figures of the Apparatus us'd in such Experiments as I made before the Society, since I gave in the Figures (representing the Machines made use of during the foregoing Year) a few Meetings before Saint Andrew's Day was Twelvemonth.

When I had complied with the former Order, I desir'd some Members of the Council to tell me whether it was expected of me that I should make Experiments at every Meeting or every other Meeting of the Society, tho' there should be nothing new to be explain'd and prov'd by Experiment, or none of the Experiments formerly made by some of our Members called in question so as to render it necessary to make them again. I told them that I would not be wanting in any thing that was my Duty; and that if repeating Experiments which had been made before, by way of Entertainment, was thought agreable, I could easily do something every Thursday; having by me a very large Apparatus, which I us'd at my Courses of Philosophy.

But I apprehended, that unless I had made some new Discovery, or had Models of new and useful Engines to offer, I should only offend by taking up the Society's Time in making a Shew to no End and Purpose.

That whenever I had made some Experiments not entirely new, I had observ'd some Members were displeas'd: and that I imagin'd it was my Business to take my Directions from the President, and also to put in Execution any Experiment recommended to me at a Meeting by any Member of the Society, if the President did not give orders to the contrary.

That I should always attend to take Directions, and never had neglected or would neglect what should be committed to my care.

I was confirm'd in my Notions by the Gentlemen I spoke to, and accordingly the last year attended constantly, except when I went out of Town to observe the great Solar Eclipse at Bath, (where it was central) and tho' I was disappointed by the cloudy weather, I made the same Preparations to observe it as if I had been sure of what I intended. I look'd upon this as doing a service to the Society; and, if I remember right, I ask'd leave before I went.

Now I find, by the last Order, that I was mistaken; and should have made more Experiments; which I had certainly done if I had thought it my Duty: and therefore now I beg the Favour of the Council to give me my Directions in Writing, if I am ~~in the~~ wrong in my Notion of what is requir'd of me. If not, I shall be very ready to take Directions from such Gentlemen as think that I do not make Experiments often enough, and shall never think much of the Pains and Expence of preparing a new Apparatus for performing any Experiments that they shall contrive.

Not to multiply words, I have only sent the Figures here of the few, but new, Machines I have made use of this year; because y^e large Descriptions of 'em have already been given in: But as I attend here I am ready to explain them if desir'd.

I am,

Sir,

Your most oblig'd

and most humble Servant

J. T. Desaguliers.

P. S.

I don't know whether I should call part of my last Year's Service the Directions which I gave the Smith and Bricklayer, for making the Contrivance to convey Heat for warming and keeping dry the Repository. But it was done by order.

Desaguliers Jean Théophile

1683 – 1714

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